

Rondo

Fall 2008

FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE WCU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

From the Director.....

Welcome to this year's edition of Rondo!

This year the School of Music welcomes two new faculty members and over seventy new students. Dr. Jason Solomon joins the faculty to teach music theory, aural skills, and a first-year seminar in rock music, and Dr. Christina Reitz will teach music history and world music. Please read more about them elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last Spring we went through our 10-year accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music. The reviewers were very positive about many aspects of our programs, especially the level of musical performance demonstrated by the students, but also had a number of helpful suggestions for the faculty to consider. So it will be another busy year as we develop and implement plans to enhance the quality of our programs.

Over the summer, the School of Music received a donation of a small 5-rank pipe organ from a church in Asheville. While this organ is not a solo instrument, it will be a nice addition to the recital hall, where it can be used to accompany choral programs and chamber music. We expect the installation and tuning to be completed by January. The gift also allowed us to move the electronic organ to the Fine and Performing Arts Center, greatly enhancing the variety of programs that we will be able to produce in that venue.

If you visit our website (music.wcu.edu), you'll see not only how it harmonizes with the university's new website design, but how easy it is for you to find the information you need about our performance and academic programs. We're also developing a page for alumni to check in with us to let us know how you are doing. You are welcome to submit information at any time, and please feel free to include pictures or links to your own websites.

Finally, the annual gentle prodding about scholarships. Our NASM accreditors noted that the School of Music is woefully short of the scholarship funding necessary to be competitive in the market for highly qualified students. Fortunately, many students choose Western in spite of this fact. But we hope that you will think seriously and generously about helping the next generation of music students to achieve their goals. If you would like to send a check for the Scholarship Fund, please address it to the WCU Foundation, but write on the memo line "Music Scholarship Fund."

Will Peebles, Director
School of Music

PEEBLES, GAETANO, AND SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECEIVE TOP HONORS



Will Peebles, Professor of Music, has been named one of the best teachers in the University of North Carolina system, earning praise for helping students discover how to teach themselves. Peebles is among 17 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching for 2008. The award was presented at a recognition luncheon on May 9 in Chapel Hill. Winners received a commemorative bronze medallion and \$7,500 cash prize. A faculty member at Western since 1992, Peebles teaches bassoon and also is director of the recently formed School of Music within the College of Fine and Performing Arts. He has taught courses in music theory, history and world music. In fall 1999, Peebles established Western's Low Tech Ensemble, which now performs on Balinese, Javanese and Sudanese gamelan. A gamelan is an

orchestra of tuned percussion instruments that consists mainly of gongs, zithers and xylophones.

The educational activities that Peebles' students experience while learning to play the gamelan provide a perfect example of Peebles' teaching philosophy and his goal of teaching students to teach themselves, said Chancellor John W. Bardo. "When students walk into Professor Peebles' gamelan class, they immediately take off their shoes, sit on the floor amid varied parts of an Indonesian orchestra and begin practicing. Students not only play their parts, but also assist each other, work to correct troublesome spots and ask insightful questions," Bardo said. "It is clear that the group is discovering how to learn for themselves, take each others' leads and try new things." Peebles said that he

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NCMEA CONVENTION TO FEATURE WCU MUSIC FACULTY

Robert Holquist, Director of WCU Choral Activities will present sessions at NCMEA for beginning choral and instrumental



conductors. He will observe 16 high school seniors, who are prospective music majors, direct either a choir or band on Monday morning, Nov. 10, from 8:45-10:30 a.m., and work with each student for a short time. He will also serve on a panel of three collegiate music faculty, who will listen to high school seniors present a "mock audition." The panel will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these performances in order to prepare the students to present impressive auditions at their chosen college/university. This session is Tuesday, Nov. 11, 9:30-11:15 a.m. Both of these sessions are open for observation by any conference attendees.

Bruce Frazier, Professor of Commercial and Electronic Music, and Bob Houghton,

Middle Grades Education department head, will team up for two presentations at the North Carolina Music Educators Association conference in November. The two-part session, entitled "Media Development Using Apple's iLife Software" will be presented on Saturday, November 8 at 2:30 PM and Monday, November 10, from 3:30 to 3:55 PM. in room BCC-C in the North Main Hall of the Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The session, designed for in-service music teachers and music education students, will demonstrate how to create and combine audio, digital video, text, and graphics files for engaging presentations delivered on DVD. Hardware and software needed to develop the material will be included in the discussion.

The School of Music will host its annual alumni reception at the NCMEA convention at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, November 9, in room Ardmore I, located in the Embassy Suites.

BAND NEWS

WORK IT!

Western Carolina University is proud to present the "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band, under the direction of music staff **Bob Buckner**, **Matt Henley**, and **Jon Henson**. The colorguard/auxiliary staff is led by Donna Buckner, and their choreographer is Larry Rebillot of the Blue Coats Drum and Bugle Corps of Canton, Ohio.

Currently the largest band in the Carolinas and Tennessee, this group now has 357 members. The band has distinguished itself throughout the Southeast and indeed the United States with their innovative and energetic performances. Often described as the "world's largest funk band," this ensemble specializes in bringing to the field music that most bands find inaccessible.

This year's half-time show is entitled "Work It!" and includes music by AC/

DC, Amerie, Daft Punk, Bachman-Turner Overdrive, James Brown, Loverboy, Nelly, and Missy Elliot. The production will present a musical representation of the mechanical aspects of industry. Through whirlwind movement, musical facility, and even human representations of robotic devices, the audience is sure to be entertained. The halftime show will also be a landmark as the percussion section will introduce an industrial instrument that will bring together the mechanical motif of the show and some percussive elements that will make you want to jump out of your seat and "Work It!"

Some highlights of the 2008 season will include performing at Enka High School's 'Land of the Sky' competition on September 27th and a weekend trip in November to perform at the Bands of America Grand

Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana. This will be the band's third appearance for the BOA Grand Nationals audience.

The eighth annual "Tournament of Champions" is scheduled for October 11. This competition brings 27 elite high school bands together from the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. This competition brings over 3500 high school students and prospective music majors to Western Carolina University as well as a national panel of judges. Contact the band office at 828-227-2259 for more information, or visit the band's website at: <http://prideofthemountains.wcu.edu>



RECENT GRADUATES

Matthew Williams (BM)	Mark Aiken (BM)
Christopher Visi (BM)	Matthew Raynor (BM)
Eric Todd (BSED)	Amy Pennebaker (BA)
Patrick Thomas (BM)	Rachel Drew (BSED)
James Lanning (BA)	Jennifer Cloughly (BSED)
Dillon Ingle (BSED)	Ryan Buchanan (BSED)
Christopher Holder (BA)	Roman Brady (BSED)
Phillip Ferguson (BM)	Samuel Bogan (BSED)
Brian Dumas (BA)	Tiffany Lamb (MM)
Michael Cannon (BM)	Rebecca Ford (MAED)
	Laurel Fisher (MM)

All-District Band at WCU

The WCU School of Music and Director of Bands **John West** will again host the western regional All-District Band on Friday and Saturday, February 13 & 14, 2009. This event involves over 350 middle and high school band musicians from throughout western North Carolina. These students are selected for participation through a rigorous audition process and spend two days at WCU rehearsing with guest clinicians. They present a final concert on Saturday evening as

the concluding event to the clinic.

Also as part of the clinic, the students will have the opportunity to hear performances from the WCU Wind Ensemble and the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet. All of the rehearsals and performances in the clinic take place on the WCU campus in Cullowhee at either the Fine and Performing Arts Center or the Coulter Music Building.

WCU Honor Band

The 29th Annual WCU Honor Band will be held on April 3 & 4, 2009 on the campus of Western Carolina University. The clinicians for this year's clinic are both internationally recognized composers of music for concert bands: Sam Hazo and Robert Sheldon. These gentlemen have compositions on virtually every approved concert band repertoire list in the country.

Robert Sheldon has taught instrumental music in the Florida and Illinois public schools, and has served on the faculty at Florida State University where he taught conducting and instrumental music education classes, and directed the university bands. As Concert Band Editor for the Alfred Publishing Company, he maintains an active composition and conducting schedule, and regularly accepts commissions for new works. Sheldon received the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Miami and the Master of Fine Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Florida.

An internationally recognized clinician, Sheldon has conducted numerous Regional and All-State Honor Bands throughout the United States and abroad, is Conductor of the Prairie Wind Ensemble in residence at Illinois Central College, and teaches Composition at Bradley University. His compositions have been recorded and released on compact discs including, *Images: The Music of Robert Sheldon*, and *Infinite Horizons: The Music of Robert Sheldon*, as well as numerous other recordings. Mr. Sheldon has been the topic of articles published in *The Instrumentalist*, *Teaching Music and School Band* and *Orchestra Magazine*, and is one of eleven American wind band composers featured in Volume I of *Composers on Composing Music for Band*. He was honored by the International Assembly of Phi Beta Mu in 1990 as being the International Outstanding Bandmaster of the year.

Samuel R. Hazo became the first composer in history to be awarded the winner of both composition contests sponsored by the National Band Association. He has composed for the professional, university and public school levels in addition to writing original scores for television,

MUSICAL THEATRE NEWS

The Musical Theatre Program, under the directorship of **Brad Martin**, is quickly establishing itself as one of the premiere programs in the nation. With this season's exciting line-up of shows and guest artists, you can be a part of the excitement yourself!

This season's productions include *School House Rock Live!* (Oct. 2-4), George

and Ira Gershwin's Pulitzer-prize winning *Of Thee I Sing* (Nov. 3 and 4), Jason Robert Brown's cutting-edge *Songs for a New World* (Jan. 23-25), and the timeless classic *Fiddler on the Roof* (March 26-29) directed by **Terrence Mann**.

Beginning this year, our "Broadway Guest Artist Series" will add a new dimension to our program and bring Broadway stars to Cullowhee. This fall will see visits to our campus by Charlotte d'Amboise (star of *A Chorus Line* and *Chicago*), Chris d'Amboise (noted choreographer and star of *Song and Dance*), internationally renowned voice coach Joan Lader, and Dave Clemmons, producer of literally dozens of hit Broadway shows and touring productions. More exciting guests artists and events will be announced for the spring.

In addition to these events, our musical theatre intensive for young performers, the "Triple Arts Series," attracted over fifty brilliant high school and college performers to our campus this past July. Lead by Terrence Mann, this extraordinary opportunity to work with Broadway professionals is bringing gifted young artists from across the nation to our campus. For musical theatre, Western is truly the place to be!

For information about WCU's Musical Theatre program, visit our website at <http://www.wcu.edu/4103.asp> and for tickets call the box office of the Fine and Performing Arts Center at (828) 227-2479.



radio and the stage. His original symphonic compositions include performances with actors Brooke Shields, James Earl Jones, David Conrad and Richard Kiley. He has also written symphonic arrangements for three-time Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Lucinda Williams. Mr. Hazo's compositions have been performed and recorded world-wide, including performances by the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra (national tour), the Birmingham Symphonic Winds (UK) and the Klavier Wind Project's recordings with Eugene Migliaro Corporon. Additionally, his music is included in the series "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band."

Mr. Hazo's works have been premiered and performed at the Music Educators' National Conference, Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Convention, National Honor Band of America, National Band Association/

TBA Convention, College Band Directors' National Association Convention and also aired in full-length programs on National Public Radio. He has served as composer-in-residence at Craig Kirchhoff's University of Minnesota Conducting Symposium and has also lectured on music and music education at universities and high schools internationally. In 2004, Mr. Hazo's compositions were listed in a published national survey of the "Top Twenty Compositions of All Time" for wind band.

Note: There are some important changes to this year's Honor Band concerning audition procedures and transportation and housing. Band Directors should refer to the website (wcu-honor-band.com) for updated information.

CHORAL NEWS

EUROPEAN CONCERT TOUR



Nineteen WCU Choral Students toured Europe from May 15-24, performing concerts of sacred and secular music in various venues throughout Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The WCU ensembles performing included the Concert Choir and the Early Music Ensemble, under the direction of **Robert Holquist**, and the Catamount Chamber Singers under the direction of **Bruce Frazier**. Also singing with the ensembles were music alumnus **Peter Crockett** ('07 BM/CE), Bruce Frazier's wife Angela, Bob Holquist's wife Barb, and Amber and Todd Barber (Holquist's daughter and son-in-law).

The group flew from Charlotte to Detroit and then to Frankfurt where they were first treated to a boat trip on the Rhine River and a tour of Heidelberg Castle. They toured Lucerne, Switzerland and

Oberammergau, Germany, making stops at King Ludwig's Royal Castle of Neuschwanstein. While in Salzburg, Austria they visited Mozart's birthplace. They also visited and sang in Vienna.

Each participant was responsible for most of the cost of the tour, but additional funds were raised by performing for services at Sylva First Baptist Church and Scott's Creek Baptist Church. Travel funds were also raised through a variety show and by selling cheesecake, cookie dough, and coffee, and raffle tickets on donated items.

This tour proved to be a most enjoyable and educational experience with a great group of people!

Annual Madrigal Christmas Dinner

The WCU Early Music Ensemble will perform the Annual Madrigal Christmas Dinner in the Grand Room of the University Center on December 5 and 6, 2009. A tradition since 1970, this event has had sell-out crowds for the past several years. The combination of a beautifully decorated hall, candle light, trumpet fanfares, pageantry of the castle, and choral music have become a favorite of western NC patrons. Robert Holquist is in the singing group, and serves as the coordinator. James and Barbara Dooley continue as the hosts of the manor, and the menu now features choice of pork tenderloin, Cornish game hen, or vegetarian. Will Peebles, Bruce Frazier, and Diana Fisher are the strolling minstrels, and this years dinner will feature a magician. Tickets are \$30 each, and go on sale on November 4, election day. Call Dianne Harris at 828 227 7206 for your tickets!

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE BICENTENNIAL OF HAYDN'S DEATH

2009 marks the bicentennial of the death of Franz Joseph Haydn. His "Creation" will be the choral orchestral work for the 2009 Artist-in-Residence program. The string section is drawn primarily from the Asheville Symphony orchestra, and they are joined by winds, brass, and percussion from the WCU School of Music. The chorus will likely number about 170, and will include the Concert Choir, University Chorus, and the Western Carolina Community Chorus (**James Dooley**, director). **Robert Holquist** will conduct this performance at 4 pm on Sunday, April 26, 2009 in the performance hall of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

WCU TRUMPET ENSEMBLE STUDIES IN ITALY

The Western Carolina University Trumpet ensemble, under the direction of Brad Ulrich, recently participated in an intensive, weeklong program in Italy in connection with Orvieto Musica, an international chamber music festival. Musicians from around the world gather for this annual festival, where they perform in venues including medieval churches, piazzas and castles.

During the 10-day trip, WCU's eight-member ensemble performed three concerts

in the hilltop town of Orvieto, participated in daily trumpet classes and rehearsals, and learned "survival Italian." The students also toured Rome, visiting the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, Vatican City and the Trevi Fountain.

Participating students included Chris Kristich, Megan Neely, Billy Dellinger, Adam Capps, Rachel Rimmer, Josh Belvin, Brandon Chapman and Kris Bence.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

I want to congratulate the School of Music for winning the Academic Excellence award for the second time in 2007-08. This award comes with a \$10,000 gift to the School from the University to use at they see fit. The award acknowledges the best overall academic program within the University and is only awarded every other year. As you can imagine, the competition is heavy. As alumni, your commitment to professional



growth played a significant role in the winning of this award. The faculty and staff's commitment to serving the students and the region also played a major role.

Dr. Will Peebles earned lifetime recognition in teaching this past year by being awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Only one faculty member is selected from Western to receive this honor annually. There are over 500 faculty members at Western: Being selected for this honor is a tremendous recognition to one's commitment to, and excellence in teaching. I know many of you have had courses or worked with Dr. Peebles while attending Western. You know exactly what I am talking about when Will begins with "I do not give grades I just write down what you earn." I am sure that is the case but Dr. Peebles certainly plays a key role in what you I(earn). Please join me in congratulating Dr. Peebles for this lifetime achievement.

In addition, Dr. Mario Gaetano won the University Scholar Award. This is an annual award given to one faculty member at Western in recognition of a sustained record in research and creative activity. Dr. Gaetano's has composed over 40 original pieces of music and arrangements that are performed nationally and internationally. It is significant in that many of the compositions are pedagogically based to teaching a specific technique or style of playing as well as being a work of art. Dr. Gaetano has been at Western for 29 years and his continuous record of creative activity certainly played a role in this distinguished honor.

Robert Kehrberg
Dean College of Fine and
Performing Arts

Continued from page 1 is firmly committed to helping

students see learning as "one of the most enjoyable activities yet discovered by the human species." Toward that objective, Bardo said, Peebles teaches music history classes in storytelling mode, where "weaving threads of narrative is more important than memorizing specific details." In one assignment, students pretend they are musicians from a specific historical period, and they write about the types of music they encounter. Peebles also has a reputation

for being one of Western's most accessible professors, because he has an open-door policy, frequently dines with students, and hosts regular study sessions. "He is so available that one student commented, 'You could ask Will a question in the middle of a hurricane, and he would stop and answer you,'" Bardo said.

Peebles earned his bachelor's and master's degree in social work in 1980, and his doctoral degree in musical arts in 1994 – all from Michigan State University. He is a three-time recipient of WCU's James Dooley Excellence in Teaching Award, and a past nominee for the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Peebles and the 16 other UNC system award recipients were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure. Winners must be tenured faculty members who have taught at their present institutions at least seven years.

Mario Gaetano was this year's recipient of the University Scholar Award, which recognizes faculty who sustain research and creative activi-

ties recognized at the regional or national level. A member of the faculty for more than 29 years,



Gaetano has taught, performed solo, researched percussion pedagogy and methodology, and composed more than 40 original music compositions and arrangements that have been performed extensively throughout the United States and in 17 countries. His works are all published by leading U. S. music publishing companies. For this award, Gaetano received a plaque and \$1000 cash prize.

"Nearly all of these works were premiered here on campus with performances involving Mario, his fellow WCU faculty and his students," said Bardo. "Many of his compositions and arrangements are designed for teaching a particular compositional device or performance technique. His compositions and arrangements have been performed in formal concerts at 65 universities and schools of music throughout the United States, including UCLA, Harvard and Brigham Young."

Gaetano is a two-time recipient of the Hinda Honigman Composer's Cup Award (NC Federation of Music Clubs) and has eight ASCAP Standard Awards to his credit. Gaetano earned the B.M. and Performer's Certificate from the Crane School of Music, Potsdam, New York; the M.M. from East Carolina University, and the D.M.A. from the University of Memphis. He has authored more than 50 scholarly or pedagogical articles for such journals as *The Instrumentalist*, *Bandworld*, *Percussive Notes*, *NACWPI*, *Woodwind*, *Brass*, and *Percussion*, *Modern Drummer*, and others. He has performed as a soloist or clinician in many U.S. states for

various regional or national conferences and has served as principal percussionist with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra since 1980. A past president of the North Carolina chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, Gaetano and is a long standing member of the PAS Composition Contest Committee, and is currently an Associate editor of the NCMEA journal.

The **School of Music** was this year's recipient of the university's Academic Program of Excellence Award. Chancellor Bardo described the School as one of the top music schools in North Carolina. The award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize to enhance program services. This is the second time the Music unit at WCU has been recognized with this award: In 1990, the Department of Music received this honor.

"The School of Music collaborates with a variety of entities such as the Jackson County Arts Council and the Asheville Symphony Orchestra," said Bardo. Musical theatre productions include faculty and students on stage, in the orchestra, and conducting. Members of the faculty have served as guest clinicians and performed workshops nationwide. The marching band logged more than 9,000 community service hours, and members of the Concert Choir and Trumpet Studio recently performed in Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The accomplishments of the talented faculty and staff of the School of Music are incomparable in our community," said Bardo.

FACULTY NEWS



Andrew Adams, Assistant Professor of Piano at WCU, has been named to the editorial board of *The Journal of Singing*, the official publication of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. The only referred periodical

devoted to the study of the voice, the *Journal* provides scholarly information regarding vocal pedagogy, science, technique, history, and lyric diction. Dr. Adams will serve on the editorial board with five colleagues from across the nation.



In February, **Travis Bennett** and the WCU Horn Choir attended the Southeast Horn Workshop at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. The Horn Choir performed on a Collegiate Horn Ensembles Recital, and Dr. Bennett hosted a session on "Forgotten Gems of the Horn

Solo Repertoire," in which he also performed "Seaside Impressions" by Franz Strauss. The session included tips on finding and performing "forgotten gems," as well as performances by others, and a question and answer time.

During the month of June, Dr. Bennett participated in a Summer Fellowship for the College of Fine & Performing Arts, here at WCU. He and two other faculty members were given the assignment to develop a plan for implementing the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in our College.



This summer **Amy Cherry** served on the faculty of the New York Summer Music Festival on the campus of SUNY, Oneonta, NY, July 13-26. She performed as a soloist and with the faculty brass quintet, taught private lessons, conducted the brass ensemble, coached

chamber ensembles and taught music history. Locally, she has been named the Co-Principal Trumpet of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra.



Dan Cherry completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Trombone from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music in August, 2008. His final document, "The Pedagogical and

Performance Uses of Gustav Mahler's Lieder Transcribed for Trombone and Piano," was the culmination of several years' research into song transcriptions, including performances he did on WCU faculty recitals. He now has 32 of Mahler's songs transcribed for trombone. They are being published through UMI.



Mario Gaetano's book "Complete Snare Drum Method," published by Mel Bay in 1996, is now in its second printing. The new 2008 edition has a new format and new cover, and will be available for sale world wide. Gaetano performed the Robert Jager percussion concerto with the WCU

wind ensemble last February, and appeared as a guest artist and clinician at Chapel Hill HS in March.



In April '08, **Bill Martin** sang a recital of sacred and secular favorites for tenor voice as part of the Oconomowoc Celebration Series, in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. During the summer months, he was a featured guest

soloist for numerous worship services at the First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC and the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Waynesville, NC.

In September he will present recitals at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, NC (Sept. 14) and WCU (Sept. 16). On October 10, Bill will appear as guest artist with the Blue Ridge Orchestra as they present "An Evening of Opera Arias and Overtures," at the Diana Wortham Theater in Asheville.

On December 9 he will present a recital of Christmas music at the Lambeth Hotel Dining

Room, Lake Junaluska; and on December 21 he will once again team up with the Blue Ridge Orchestra for a Christmas concert, to be held at the Folk Arts Center Auditorium, Asheville.



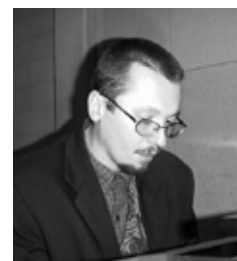
Will Peebles performed with the Page Five Woodwind Quintet on a concert in Marquette, Michigan in July. It was a fund-raising concert to benefit the Superior Festival Orchestra's summer internship program. He, along

with **Terri Armfield** and **Shannon Thompson**, performed a concert of music for reed trio on the Summer Evenings in Webster Concert series in July. Gamelan Gunung biru performed on the Tuesday night concert series at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville in July. The group includes students, former students, and faculty members Terri Armfield, Joy Shea, and Will Peebles.



P. Bradley Ulrich, Professor of Trumpet at Western Carolina University since 1989, will be traveling to perform and teach in Russia in October. First stop for Ulrich will be a performance on the gala concert of the International Romantic

Trumpet Festival in St. Petersburg. This concert will feature Ulrich, Paul Merkelo (Principal Trumpet of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra), and Gennady Nikonov (Principal Trumpet of the Marinsky Theatre Orchestra in Russia). Following this performance, Ulrich will be traveling to give a trumpet clinic and recital appearance at the Moscow Conservatory. The recital will feature Ulrich and Vladislav Lavrik, Principal Trumpet of the Russian National Orchestra.



Pavel Wlosok traveled throughout Europe this summer and performed over 30 times. He toured with Austrian saxophonist Harry Sokal (former member of Art Farmer quintet) and performed in Berlin,

Prague, and the Czech Republic. Pavel also taught this summer at the annual International Summer Jazz Camp in Prague, for the seventh consecutive year.

NEW FACULTY PROFILES



Christina L. Reitz graduated from the University of Florida with a Ph.D. in historical musicology and external cognates in piano performance and women's studies. With previous degrees in Piano Performance (B.M., Youngstown State University) and

Piano Pedagogy (M.M. University of Florida), she remains an active collaborative performer. Her research has been presented at the College Music Society National meetings and Regional meetings, the International Festival of Women Composers, and the Nineteenth Century National Studies Association, an interdisciplinary organization in which she was recently elected to the Board of Directors. Dr. Reitz's primary research interest is women composers and she has been published in the *International Alliance for Women in Music Journal*. Before coming to Western, she was Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Franklin and Marshall College. Christina will be teaching courses in music history and world music at WCU.

Christina will be attending the College Music Society National Conference from September 25-28, in Atlanta, Georgia, where she will be presenting a paper entitled "Higdon's Concerto for Orchestra: Escaping the Shadow of Bartok." She will also serve as Session Chair for "The Identity of Music Teachers."

Jason Solomon holds a Ph.D. in music theory,



a Master's degree in classical guitar performance, and Bachelor's degrees in both music composition and performance, all from the University of Georgia. He has taught theory, composition, and guitar at several colleges in Georgia including Georgia Southern, Emmanuel College

and Georgia State University. He is currently teaching theory at Western Carolina University. His research interests include spatialization, transformational analysis, music perception and cognition, metaphor, popular music, and aesthetics. Jason has presented papers at several conferences, including Music Theory Southeast and The Harvard Graduate Forum. Articles of his appear in recent issues of *Soundboard* and *Guitar Review*. He has studied with Christopher Parkening and John Sutherland (guitar), as well as George Crumb, Joan Tower, and Charles Wuorinen (composition). An active composer, he writes for a variety of instruments, including the electronic medium. Jason is a member of the Georgia Guitar Quartet—an ensemble that has released four CDs and maintains a national performance schedule.

Music Professors to Present at National Convention

Carol Grotnes Belk Professor, **Bruce Frazier** and music faculty member **Daniel Gonko** will be traveling to Atlanta in September to present sessions at the joint conference of the annual meeting of the



College Music Society (CMS) and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction (ATMI) held at the Marriot Marquis. On Saturday morning, September 27, Frazier will lead a hands-on session entitled *Post Production Audio: Synchronizing Music, Dialog and Sound Effects using Digidesign's Pro Tools software*. It will be a hands-on tutorial using the popular music recording software to synchronize audio with video as a part of the post-production workflow.

Later in the morning, Gonko will present a tutorial session entitled *Beyond Normalization: Recording Basics for Music Educators*. It is becoming increasingly popular for music teachers to record lessons, rehearsals, and performances for use as teaching tools. In this hands-on demonstration, Pro Tools will

again be used to demonstrate basic and practical recording and mixing techniques.

On Saturday afternoon, Bruce Frazier will present a poster session featuring audio and video production software entitled "Digital Video Basics for Musicians: Exploring *Final Cut Pro*." It is a beginner's tutorial for creating multimedia materials in a variety of digital formats using Apple computer's *Final Cut Pro* media management software.



SOUTHEAST HORN WORKSHOP

WCU will serve as host of the 2009 Southeast Horn Workshop, March 6-8, 2009. This annual regional event is the largest of its kind, second only to the International Horn Symposium that occurs each summer. More than 250 horn enthusiasts of all ages are expected to attend.

The weekend will include recitals, masterclasses, lectures, demonstrations, and competitions for high school and college students. Several vendors will be on hand selling horns, music and accessories. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to try out several models of horns. The featured guest artists are **Jeff Nelsen** (member of the Canadian Brass and teacher at Indiana University) and **Roger Kaza** (Associate Principal Horn of the Houston Symphony and teacher at the University of Houston). Nelsen and Kaza will each perform a solo recital and present a masterclass.

Other special events planned for the weekend include a web cam masterclass with Wendell Rider (author of *Real World Horn Playing*) live

from California, and a recital featuring military horn players from different branches of service. Later in the weekend, the military musicians will hold a panel discussion about their careers, during which students will have the opportunity to ask questions about auditions, basic training, their daily schedule, touring, etc. There will also be a lecture/demonstration on the Wagner tuba, led by **John Ericson**, from Arizona State University. Regional Artists Recitals will feature performances by several college professors and professional horn players in the southeast. The competitions for students will include high school solo, college solo, mock orchestral auditions, and horn quartet competitions.

For more information, email Travis Bennett, Workshop Coordinator and Host, at tbennett@email.wcu.edu or visit www.southeasthornworkshop.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

Grace Gearing, BSED '08, has accepted a graduate assistantship in percussion at the University of Memphis, where she is pursuing a MM in music education.

Scott Brown, BSED, 2000, is currently Assistant Band Director at Dickerson Middle School in Marietta, GA and Percussion Director of the Bands of America Grand National Champion Lassiter High School Band. His book "Field Level – The Ultimate Band Director's Guide to Fielding the Ultimate Marching Percussion Section," was recently published by Row-Loff Productions. Scott has presented recent percussion clinics for the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention, PAS International Convention, and the Georgia Music Educator's Association Conference.

Dillon Ingle, BSED '08, is an Assistant Band Director and Percussion Director at a high school in Brownsville, Texas.

TRUMPET FESTIVAL



The 2009 Western Carolina University Trumpet Festival will take place at WCU on Martin Luther King Weekend, January 16-18, 2009. This year's festival will be the seventh consecutive event and it will be difficult to ever top! Artists include the legendary jazz trumpeter **Bobby Shew**, **Paul Merkelo** (Principal Trumpet of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra), and **Malcolm McNabb** (the world's top trumpet recording artist with over 2000 movie and television

credits to his name.) Festival participants will be able to attend concerts and clinics by these famous artists in addition to performing in a variety of trumpet ensembles and visiting exhibits. Last year's event had over 250 trumpeters from 15 different states in attendance and this year's will surely exceed those numbers! For more information please contact Dr. P. Bradley Ulrich or visit the Festival website at www.ulrichmusic.com (follow link to WCU Trumpet Festival).

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BRASS QUINTET



The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet has announced it will perform in the southwestern United States in February 2009. The SMBQ, in Residence at WCU, will be flying to perform at the University of New Mexico, Northern Arizona University

(Flagstaff), and the University of Las Vegas from February 15-20. "The focus of the tour will be to recruit graduate brass players to the School of Music. Of particular interest are players interested in performing in the newly formed Graduate Brass Quintet at WCU," said P. Brad Ulrich, the quintet's artistic director.

In addition to the southwestern tour, the SMBQ will be traveling to Bermuda next summer to help that country build a youth brass band for children with asthma. This will be a pilot program, that once achieved, will also be started in the mountains of western North Carolina. For more information, please contact Dr. P. Bradley Ulrich at 828-227-3274.

The WCU School of Music wishes to update alumni information.

Please complete this form to let us know where you are and what position you hold and return to:

Mario Gaetano, editor,
WCU School of Music
Cullowhee, NC 28723

School of Music Alumni Information Form

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Degree _____ Year _____

Address _____

phone

___This is a change of address from that on the newsletter.

Position and employer _____

Spouse's Name _____

News of Interest _____

recent awards, performances, publications
